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Help ALA, ATA Work to Make NIH Research More Accessible

ALA is a member of the Alliance for Taxpayer Access (ATA), a coalition of over 60 library, non-profit, and patient advocacy groups. Through the ATA, we are working on various aspects of improving public access to taxpayer-funded research.

One continuing area of interest is the actions taken by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to make research funded by it more accessible to the public. The [Alliance web site](#) has been updated recently to reflect progress related to the NIH Public Access Policy since it was introduced on May 2, 2005. See the NIH page [here](#).

The Web page offers a chronology of events, which includes House of Representatives Appropriations activity, the NIH Re-Authorization process, and an October 2006 letter from Dr. Elias Zerhouni, NIH Director, to SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. The revised web page also offers a call to action for all who support public access to NIH-funded research.

ATA members continue to aim to ensure both Dr. Zerhouni and our representatives in Congress that patient groups, researchers, non-profit publishers, consumers, and libraries stand behind a mandatory policy and a six-month embargo.

The ATA call to action reads:

NIH Public Access Policy - Public Access Plan in Effect to Make NIH-funded Research Available

Changes are needed for this policy to achieve its goals.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:

1) Phone, fax, or e-mail your senator and request that s/he act to support the policy. Contact information is available at the [Senate web site](#). (A letter template is available on the [ATA Web site](#).)

Especially important to contact are members of the following

Other News:

[Teens vote for favorite young adult book](#)

["Librarian Salary Survey" reports mean librarian salary up more than 4% to \\$56,259 in 2006](#)

[ALA presents Advocacy Institute at 2006 CLA Annual Conference](#)

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2) Patient Groups, fax a letter of support for the policy and a six-month embargo (if not immediate access) to Director Zerhouni (301-402-2700). (A letter template is available on the [ATA Web site](#).)

3) Add this image to your web site and show your support for taxpayer access to federally funded research:



Please distribute this message as widely as possible.

Information about pending federal legislation to improve access to research is available on [ALA's web site](#).



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U.S. Capitol switchboard 202-225-3121